

REMARKS

In view of the advisory of March 17, 2006, RCE has been filed. In view of the advisory Action, claim 20 has been cancelled, and claims 6 and 22 have been slightly amended. Further, new claims 27-29 have been filed.

In the advisory Action, it was held that the configuration of the claimed protector/front board arrangement is a matter of choice. However, since the protector and the front board are arranged on the same plane, the distribution of electromagnetic field becomes equal, so that plasma can be generated equally. This feature is explained at paragraphs 0063 to 0065 and 0072. Especially, in paragraph 0072, it is explained that since no projection is formed on the surface, uniformity of plasma is improved. This arrangement is not a matter of choice, and provides excellent results, as explained in the specification.

In regard to claim 22, it is specified that the protector covers the heads of the screws for fixing the clamping plate, so that the heads of the screws are not exposed to the plasma, and the screws do not contact the front board.

Lee et al. has a screw 130 with a quartz cap 140. However, the screw is simply covered by the cap 140, which is different from the protector covering the front surface of the clamping plate and the screws. This feature is not disclosed by the cited references.

In case the front board and screws are exposed to plasma, the front board and screws are likely to be etched by plasma to discharge contamination materials. The front board and the protector are made of materials not etched by plasma, as recited in claims 27-29.


Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Three month extension of time is hereby requested (one month extension of time was made). A credit card authorization form in

the amount of \$1,690.00 is attached herewith for filing RCE (\$790.00) and extension of time (\$900.00).

Respectfully Submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT ABENTS, LLP

by 
Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785